

Merisa K. Bowers

GAHANNA CITY COUNCILWOMAN, AT-LARGE
City of Gahanna, 200 S. Hamilton Rd., Gahanna, OH 43230
merisa.bowers@gahanna.gov (614) 342-0040

To: Residents of Gahanna; Members of Council; Mayor Jadwin; City Attorney Ray Mularski
CC: Clerk of Council Jeremy VanMeter
From: Councilmember Merisa Bowers
Re: **Constituent Update - October Report**
Date: November 21, 2022

General Update - Events and Actions of October 2022:

- Joined with neighbors on **National Walk & Bike to School Day** on October 5.



- Participated in a meeting with the **Ohio Environmental Council** on October 5.
- Attended **The Big Table** conversation on October 6 hosted at the Columbus Metropolitan Library Gahanna Branch where we talked about community engagement, our favorite literary genres and authors, and how to continue to support each other.
- Attended joint meeting on October 12 of City and School Board leadership to discuss update on construction phases and property valuation appeals.
- Enjoyed s'mores with neighbors at the **Campfire at Rathburn Woods Park** on October 12 organized by the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- Attended the **Ohio Municipal League Conference** on Thursday, October 13 and attended sessions on legislative updates, preemption, and income tax lawsuits.
- Attended **Culture Night at Lincoln Elementary** where we sampled and participated in traditions from cultures represented in the school on October 13.
- Celebrated **Gahanna Lincoln High School Groundbreaking** on October 20!



- Drafted and introduced a **Resolution Honoring First Responders** who live and work in Gahanna and designating October 28 as Honoring First Responders Day.

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Of Note:

Gahanna's **Fair Housing Ordinances** were passed by a vote of 6 - 1 on October 17. These laws ensure opportunity and fairness in housing for everyone who lives in Gahanna. In addition to protecting people from discrimination based on race, religion, sex and gender, family status, and other identities, the laws also ensure that a prospective tenant who receives non-wage income like public benefits or housing assistance must be fairly considered for housing. And, if a tenant falls behind in their rent, they have a fair opportunity to catch up before they're evicted. These measures will help curb the extremely high eviction rate in the County and stabilize housing and schooling for families who rent. Landlords and property owners retain their right to set qualification criteria and to evict tenants who break their leases. More information about the Fair Housing Ordinances can be found [here](#).

Constituent Hours

Budget and Breakfast Constituent Meeting will be held on **Friday, December 2 at 8:30 a.m. at Cafe Creekside, 53 Granville Street, Gahanna.**

You may sign up for periodic email updates from Councilwoman Bowers here:

<https://forms.gle/PMTu8eH5Fy4bN4Si8>

Constituent Issues/Concerns:

1. 5503 Morse Road Development
On-going emails from interested parties regarding 5503 Morse Road development proposal.
2. Litter at Parks
Received communication from resident regarding discarded chewing gum at local parks; responded.
3. Fair Housing Legislation
Received and responded to communications from residents and interested parties regarding housing nondiscrimination and pay-to-stay.
4. Cherry Bottom Road Maintenance and Impact to Voting Location at Stonybrook Church
Received emails from constituents regarding impact to voting location access due to road closure (Cherrybottom); communicated to Franklin County Board of Elections and provided contact information for City staff.
5. Air B&B in Royal Manor
Received email from resident concerning issues with adjacent short term rental property; researched status of pending state legislation preempting municipalities from regulating short term rentals; responded to constituent; briefly discussed with deputy city attorney; will follow up on rental registration avenues and determine whether pending state legislation advances.

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Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Merisa K. Bowers
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Gahanna City Councilmember, At Large
November 21, 2022

